

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Ralph DLG Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres,

Now that the U.S. Department of Education has allocated \$27.9 million to the Northern Mariana Islands from the CARES Act's Education Stabilization Fund, you can pay the Public School System the full amount provided in the FY20 Appropriations Act, CNMI Public Law 21-8. I urge you to do so, so all furloughed PSS teachers and staff can be paid in full what they are owed for this school year and so the 10,000 students of PSS have the greatest possible opportunity to continue learning during the coronavirus crisis.

Of the \$27.9 million the Department has allocated for the Marianas, \$22.4 million is available for PSS and \$5.6 million is set aside in a special Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund.

The Commonwealth budgeted \$37.7 million for PSS in Public Law 21-8. To date, however, I understand, only \$11.9 million has been conveyed by your administration. This leaves a balance of \$25.8 million.

The CARES Act funding of \$22.4 million for PSS covers most of that balance, but there is still a remaining \$3.4 million needed to meet your commitment to teachers, staff, and students.

I urge you to use the full \$5.6 million you now have for emergency education relief not only to make up the shortfall of \$3.4 million still owed to PSS, but, with the balance of \$2.2 million, to help cover the unbudgeted costs of providing online learning, while schools throughout the Marianas are closed due to the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress